

portion of Nakayama merely provides that if, as in the second embodiment disclosed in Nakayama, results of the detection of a headmost patch of a plurality of toner patches are used for controlling the detection operation of subsequent patches, then disagreement in timing may occur between the toner patch position and the signal detection by the sensor if the transferring speed of the transfer material changes due to slippage or wear of a roller. Thus, Nakayama provides a position detection patch 151 for each toner patch 152-156, as shown in FIG. 7. Nakayama merely provides a position detection patch for each toner patch to avoid having to rely on the time that has passed from the detection of a single position detection patch. Nakayama does not obtain data and/or determine whether the obtained data is normal or abnormal so as to exclude obtained data that is abnormal data.

Nakayama fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 1 including, *inter alia*, a measuring unit measuring at least one predetermined kind of information with respect to the monochromatic calibration image, thereby obtaining at least one data group of the at least one predetermined kind of information, and an abnormal-data excluding unit excluding abnormal data from each of the at least one data group, thereby obtaining normal data. Nakayama also fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 21 including, *inter alia*, a measurement-data determining unit determining whether the measurement data is either normal data or abnormal data, and a color-registration correcting unit adjusting the plurality of image forming units based on the normal data by excluding the abnormal data, thereby correcting color registration errors among a plurality of monochromatic images.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Nakayama, alone or in combination with Monji or Yamanaka, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of independent claims 1 and 21, as well as all the features of dependent claims 2-4 and 12-19. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19, and 21 in addition to already allowed claims 20, 22 and 23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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